

## ARRIVAL

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Please arrive so that your child can be on time for class but no earlier than 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of their session (5:00 pm or 7:00 pm). Parents are expected to use the car line. **No walk-ups for drop-off nor pick-up.**

## DISMISSAL

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All parents in their cars must enter at the north exit of Old St. Augustine Road (See map). Children must be picked up within 15 minutes after the session ends (6:15 pm or 8:15 pm).

## SECURITY

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For the safety of all children, no visitors are allowed on campus. Parents who wish to drop off or pick up their child outside of our designated times must first sign in at the office and provide proper identification.

Diocesan directives demand that all adult volunteers (18 years or older), involved with children's ministries, must be fingerprinted, background checked, approved, and attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop. These must be done through Diocesan approved programs, contractors, etc. There are no exceptions.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE - "KIDS MINISTERING TO KIDS"

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Throughout the school year, we may have collections or events which benefit our community. We ask that you cheerfully participate in these activities in support of various parish community charities.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

**(904) 880-6404**

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## Parent-Student Handbook



St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
11730 Old St. Augustine Rd  
Jacksonville, FL 32258  
**(904) 880-6404**

**[www.stjosephsjax.org](http://www.stjosephsjax.org)**

## MISSION STATEMENT

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St. Joseph's PREP (*Parish Religious Education Program*) prepares students (the future of our parish) in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so they may internalize and evangelize His truth within themselves and throughout our community. By living their Catholic Faith, they will grow closer to Him through prayer and action, desire to do His will, serve others in His name, and become His apostles and disciples today!

## BACKGROUND

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For Our Children . . .

Parents have the first responsibility for the religious education of their children in their home – the “Domestic Church.” But you do not bear this responsibility alone. Accordingly, the entire Christian community is entrusted with this mission.

St. Joseph's PREP sends a special invitation to all parents to become our partners in faith and to do as Jesus commanded us: to make disciples, to witness, to baptize, and to love one another. Begin with your children by initiating them in to the mysteries of our Faith. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that genuinely prepare for faithful living throughout your child's life.

Our PREP team supports and empowers you as a community of caring and believing parents. We assist you every Wednesday evening in the task of teaching your children the Catholic Faith through the Catechism, liturgy, sacraments, scripture, prayer, and related activities.

Faith involves a personal relationship with God; a relationship which permeates and directs our whole lives. The PREP teachers, their aides, and our support staff are dedicated to passing on the living faith of Jesus Christ to His most precious gifts – our children – the hope of tomorrow and the future champions of the Faith!

“To be little. The great daring is always that of children. Who cries for the moon? Who won't stop at danger to get what he wants?”

Put in such a child a great deal of God's grace, the desire to do God's will, a great love for Jesus, and all the human knowledge he is capable of acquiring, and you'll have a likeness of the apostles of today just as God undoubtedly wants them.”

~ Saint Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer.  
*The Way*. Scepter Publishers, London, 1992.

## IN THE CLASSROOM

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Our team of catechists prepare well for each class. Students should also prepare well. Disruptive behavior in class is not fair to the other students who are there to learn. If a student is disruptive, he or she will be asked to leave the classroom and join a staff member in the office. The second time, the parent or caregiver will receive a phone call from the PREP office staff or the Administrator of Religious Education (A.R.E.). Together, we will strive to work out the problem. However, if a student continues to be disruptive after three attempts to solve the issues, then he or she may be asked to leave the program.

## ABSENCES

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If your child is absent, please arrange with their Catechist (teacher) to complete the missed lesson.

We have one hour and fifteen minutes per week, over 26 weeks, to complete your child's learning program. If your child is absent more than four times throughout the PREP year, with no previous arrangements or follow-ups with the catechist, your child may be asked to repeat the PREP year. Attendance is important and is recorded for your child at every class meeting, retreat, rehearsal, and so on.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

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### FIRST COMMUNION

Second graders, “Bridges II” students, and parents are required to attend the following:

- First Reconciliation Retreat
- First Holy Communion Retreat
- First Holy Communion Rehearsal
- Two Mandatory Parent Meetings

### CONFIRMATION

Eighth graders and their parents are required to attend the following:

- Confirmation Retreats
- Parents and Teen Meetings
- Confirmation Rehearsal
- Volunteer Hours (students)